



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

DICHANTHELIUM OLIGOSANTHES VAR SCRIBNERIANUM
SCRIBNER'S PANIC GRASS

Scribner's Panic Grass is a perennial forming clumps of simple or branched stems that are 20-50 cm tall. The lower leaves are 5-10 cm long and 6-12 mm wide, while the upper leaves are short and relatively broad. Leaves and sheaths usually have long hairs that are swollen at their bases. Ligules are 1.5 mm. Flowers are borne on short to long stalks and arranged in an open, conical inflorescence that is 3-8 cm high. Each egg-shaped spikelet has one flower, 3-3.5 mm long, consisting of two glumes enclosing a sparsely pubescent to nearly glabrous lemma and a palea. Fruit mature in late June - early July.

Distinguished from *DICHANTHELIUM ACUMINATUM* (*PANICUM OCCIDENTALE*) by the relatively large spikelets greater than 3 mm, and from *D. WILCOXIANUM* in branching at the upper portions of the stem rather than near the base; also our only woodland species in the genus. A hand lens or microscope and technical key may be needed for positive identification.